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MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1943

Printed by Jos. Tebbutt, King Street, Northampton

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BRIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending 31st December, 1943.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present on behalf of Dr. S. Leff (resigned) the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and combining that of the Sanitary Inspector. I am happy to express my gratitude to members of the Council and of the Staff for their help and interest throughout the year.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health	S. Leff, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector	F. A. Russell, F.F.S., M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
Assistant Sanitary Inspectors	R. S. Linley, B. J. Little } on active service
Water Inspector	D. H. Seaton

Dr. S. Leff commenced duties on 29th March, 1943, as Medical Officer of Health in a temporary capacity in place of Dr. D. J. Jones in H.M. Forces.

The Medical Officer of Health holds a full time public health appointment, combining with his duties to this Council, those of Medical Officer of Health to the Councils of Brackley Borough and Brackley Rural District, Daventry Borough and Daventry Rural District, and Assistant Medical Officer and Assistant School Medical Officer to the Northamptonshire County Council. This combined appointment allows the Medical Officer to be concerned

with that part of the public health administration of the District for which the County Council is responsible, and includes:—

Examination of infants and toddlers at three Infant Welfare Centres: Brixworth, Moulton and Welford.

Medical inspection (including mental tests) of children attending the public elementary schools.

Supervision of dairies and cowsheds concerned in the production and distribution of "accredited" and Tuberculin tested milk.

Supervision of rivers and streams, under the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts.

The Sanitary Inspector is also the Surveyor to the Council. He and his assistants prepare plans and estimates and also supervise the carrying out of all works on behalf of the local authority, and supervise all building in the District.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area	82,944 acres
Rateable Value 30/9/43	£90,625
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£386/5/11d.

Resident population and number of inhabited houses end of 1943 are not available for publication.

The District is almost entirely rural in character, except in proximity to the County Borough of Northampton. Agriculture and dairy farming are the main industries, though ironstone quarrying gives employment to a number of men.

Vital Statistics.

	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population: Brixworth R.D.	Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population: England and Wales
Deaths	241	122	119	14.93	12.1
Deaths from puerperal causes			1		
Live Births ...	282	152	130	17.47	16.5
Legitimate ...	256	136	120		
Illegitimate ...	26	16	10		
Stillbirths ...	8	5	3	26.66 [Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births]	
Legitimate ...	7	4	3		
Illegitimate ...	1	1	0		
				0.49 (Rate per 1,000 of Civilian Population)	0.51

Death rate of Infants (under one year of age) :—

	Brixworth R.D.	England and Wales
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	49.64	49
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	46.87	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	76.92	

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths from cancer (all ages) ...	42	24	18
Deaths from measles (all ages) ...	NIL	—	—
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	NIL	—	—
Deaths from diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	NIL	—	—

Adjusted Death Rate.

The " Adjusted Death Rate " cannot be calculated for the current year as the " Area Comparability Factor " is not available. The above death rate therefore is the nett figure for the district.

The registered causes of death were as follows :—

	M.	F.	Total
Influenza	2	4	6
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system ...	5	0	5
Cancer	24	18	42
Diabetes	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	1	2
Appendicitis	2	1	3
Other digestive disorders	0	2	2
Cerebral hæmorrhage	10	20	30
Heart disease	34	38	72
Other circulatory diseases	3	6	9
Scarlet fever	0	1	1
Syphilitic	0	1	1
Bronchitis	8	2	10
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	7	11
Other respiratory diseases	3	0	3
Ac. and chronic nephritis	3	3	6
Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	8	3	11
Puerperal causes	0	1	1
All other causes	14	10	24

Heart disease and cancer were the commonest causes of death.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.** Swabs from suspected cases of diphtheria, water for bacteriological examination and any other pathological or bacteriological investigations are carried out in the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, at Northampton General Hospital.

(b) **Diphtheria Antitoxin.** A supply of Antitoxin is maintained at the Council Offices in accordance with the provisions of the "Diphtheria Antitoxin (outside London) Order, 1910," and is available free of charge to all Medical Practitioners in the District.

(c) **Ambulance Facilities.**

(1) Ordinary cases by St. John Ambulance Brigade.

(2) Infectious cases by Kettering Joint Hospital Board.

(d) **Nursing in the home.**

(e) **Treatment centres and clinics.**

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

(i) Water Supplies.

There has been no changes in the water supplies during the year.

The district has suffered, in common with other parts of the County, from a shortage of water, due to the drought. As however most of the villages in this area, even where there is a mains supply of water, have a number of shallow wells with hand-operated pumps, only on very rare occasions have all of these in any one village failed, in consequence of which, except for one or two odd instances, it has not been necessary to cart water to any of the villages, and never as a regular thing. Generally speaking, this district has not suffered very greatly from the current dry period.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

No major schemes and/or improvements were carried out during the year; the arrangements of drainage and sewerage therefore remain substantially the same.

The total length of sewers in the district is about 39¼ miles, the regular flushing of which has been much interfered with owing to the shortage of labour.

(iii) Public Cleansing.

Scavenging of household refuse is carried out by direct labour throughout the whole of the district. Collections are made monthly with the exception of part of the parish of Boughton adjacent to the Borough of Northampton, where fortnightly collections are in operation.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

HOUSING.

Number of visits (during 1943) :—

Inspections for individual unfit houses	NIL
Visits to Clearance Areas...	NIL
Visits for repairs	637
Building Inspections by Private Enterprise ...	69
Visits to Council Houses in course of erection...	263

BUILDING AND PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES.

Fourteen plans were submitted and reported upon during the year, as follows :—

1 temporary wooden bungalow.
4 additions to domestic premises.
1 reconstruction of five cottages partly destroyed by fire.
2 garages.
2 underground petrol tanks.
3 farm buildings.
1 conversion of a farm house into two cottages under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

Under the Ministry of Health's scheme for the provision of 3,000 agricultural workers' cottages, this district was allocated fourteen. These were erected in seven pairs in various parts of the district, to one type plan. The plan chosen was, except for minor details, the Ministry of Health Type Plan P.1. Building was commenced in August and by the end of the year all fourteen were approaching completion.

STATISTICS FOR 1943.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health and Housing Acts)	264
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	637
2.	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	NIL
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	NIL
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	NIL
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation and capable of repair ...	NIL

2. Remedy of defects during the year without the service of Formal Notices :—

   Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers ... ... NIL

3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

   (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936 :—

      1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs NIL

      2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices :—

         (a) By Owners ... ... NIL

         (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... NIL

   (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

      1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 264

      2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—

         (a) By Owners 3

         (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... NIL

   (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936 :—

      1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... NIL

      2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... NIL

   (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act, 1936 :—

      1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... NIL

      2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... NIL

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding:—

(a) (i) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year	Information not available
(ii) Number of families therein	
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ..	
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	4
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	11

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Periodic inspections have been made for cleanliness and alterations to existing Cowsheds.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION.

All slaughtering of animals for sale for human consumption in this district, is now carried out in the Central Abattoirs at Northampton and Market Harborough.

BAKEHOUSES.

During the year no adverse reports were received.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action has been taken and no complaints have been received.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no recognised camping sites in the district. One temporary voluntary labour camp was sited in the parish of Thornby by the County W.A.E.C. This was in operation from June to October and no adverse reports were received.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are four private swimming pools in the District and no reports have been received as to the condition of the water.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

Sanitary Inspection of houses has failed to reveal any case of infestation and no complaints have been received.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scabies.

Under the Scabies Order 1941, extensive powers were given to the Medical Officer of Health for the treatment of scabies. Fortunately these powers did not have to be employed in this area during the current year.

Notifications of cases are received by the Medical Officer of Health and treatment is usually instituted at home by the general medical practitioner and/or with the guidance and supervision of the Health Visitors. Thirty-six notifications have been received during the year.

Where facilities for treatment are not available at home, patients are admitted to Daventry Public Assistance Institution.

Infected bedding and clothing is removed and disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Year ending 31st December, 1943.

There were five cases of diphtheria, with no deaths.

All the cases were removed to hospital.

	Under 5 years	5—15
Number of children who completed the full course of immunisation during 1943 ...	267 ...	210
Percentage of Population considered immunised at 31st December, 1943 ...	54 ...	77

Still more remains to be done, as there are quite a few children who are not yet immunised, and there are the new children to be immunised every year. The ideal time for immunisation is at the age of one year, and the Medical Officer of Health does the majority of cases at the Schools and Infant Welfare Centres.

Application for immunisation of children may be made to the Health Visitors, Miss Myerscough and Miss Hunting, the Medical Officer of Health or the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. F. A. Russell, at the Brixworth Rural District Council Offices.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFICATION IN AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1 year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 and over	Total	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	2	3	16	9	2	—	2	—	—	34	23	1
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	5	5	—
Measles ...	1	7	2	9	9	4	9	5	4	4	—	—	91	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	4	3	4	—	12	5	—	—	—	—	—	29	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	—	—	8	—	1
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	5	—	11
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	3	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age and Sex distribution of Cases and Deaths.

	Pulmonary		Other	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	2	1
15—	—	1	—	—
20—	—	1	—	—
25—	—	1	—	1
35—	—	—	—	1
45—	—	1	1	1
55—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	4	3	4

C. T. DARWENT, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H., F.R.S.I.
Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1944.